

In the Claims:

1-6 (Cancelled)

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 7. (Currently Amended) The method for performing a biopsy ~~comprising the steps~~

of:

D1 removing tissue from a vascular tissue site; and

positioning a pledget of absorbable sponge material adjacent the vascular tissue site

 wherein the absorbable sponge material includes a contrasting agent substantially dispersed throughout said pledget.


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8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold, tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate sodium, iodomide sodium, and meglumine and mixtures thereof.

12-13 (Withdrawn)

14. (Cancelled)

 D2 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising ~~a step of~~ locating the position of the vascular tissue site by detecting the contrasting agent.
 

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16. (Currently Amended) The method for performing a biopsy ~~comprising the steps of:~~

D3 removing tissue from a vascular site; and

D3

positioning a pledget of absorbable sponge material substantially at the vascular site wherein the absorbable sponge material includes a contrast agent preloaded therein prior to hydration.

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17. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.

18. (Previously Added) The method of claim 17 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.

19. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.

20. (Previously Added) The method of claim 19 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate soduim, iodomide sodium, and maglemine and mixtures thereof.

21. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is substantially dispersed throughout the absorbable sponge material.

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22. (Currently Amended) The method of marking a biopsy site ~~comprising the steps~~

of:

D4 providing an absorbable sponge material containing a contrast agent, said contrast agent substantially dispersed throughout said absorbable sponge material;

placing the sponge material containing the contrast agent into a delivery device;

performing a biopsy procedure at a biopsy site; and

delivering the sponge material containing contrast agent to the biopsy site to mark the biopsy site.

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23. (Previously Added) The method of claim 22 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.
24. (Previously Added) The method of claim 23 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold, tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.
25. (Previously Added) The method of claim 22 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.
26. (Previously Added) The method of claim 25 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate sodium, iodomide sodium, and meglumine and mixtures thereof.
27. (Cancelled)